

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri Department of Economic Development



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2017

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. Through the 2017 application cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$5,999,970 in tax credits to 40 youth projects throughout the state. Contributions to these projects fund programming for 39 youth service projects and construction at one (1) facility. A 2017 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2017 projects have the potential to generate approximately \$12 million in contributions, leveraging at least \$6 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, YOP has raised more than \$176 million in contributions for projects focused on serving Missouri's at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with non-profit organizations to fund programs for disadvantaged youth, teaming up to leverage private dollars instead of relying solely on public/government funding. These programs help youth break down barriers to a healthy, successful life and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP acts as an incentive to provide this specialized programming for youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

The Youth Opportunities Program has established program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following five areas:

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school equivalency.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school, improve grades, and/or earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

Table 1.1 (next page) shows the amount of tax credits authorized, issued, and redeemed to date from each of the last three calendar year allocations. Taxpayers (donors) have the tax year in which they made a contribution plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization

	2015	2016	2017
Credits Authorized To Date¹	\$5,893,227	\$5,988,873	\$5,912,924
Credits Issued To Date²	\$5,129,541	\$4,150,470	\$1,686,172
Credits Redeemed To Date³	\$3,812,626	\$2,494,730	\$3,486

¹ Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2017.

² Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2017 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

³ Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2017 for Contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

YOP projects that ended and were closed during 2015-2017 reported the following results under each of the program outcomes (Table 1.2). The outcome numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The totals fluctuate from year to year due to varying project time frames, the types of projects funded each year, and the number of projects closed each year. Some numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieved more than one outcome.

Table 1.2: Outcomes Achieved

	2015	2016	2017
Jobs Retained and New	78	50	20
Youth Earning a High School Diploma or Equivalency	261	0	515
Earning School Credits, Improving Academically, or Increasing GPA	3,625	6,878	11,513
Youth Not Committing Crimes or Completing Violence Prevention Courses	5,254	34,330	4,073
Youth Abstaining from Drug and Alcohol Use; Completing Prevention Programs	458	24,611	6,157
Youth Completing Life Skills Training; Financial Literacy; Participating in Mentoring	4,664	4,008	20,801
Youth Learning Employment Skills and/or Placed in a Job or Internship	904	1,255	2,574
Youth Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, Technology, or Business	1,087	75,718	740
# Achieving Other Outcomes (Such as: counseling, crisis intervention and emergency shelter, post-secondary knowledge and preparation, case management, etc.)	5,584	14,734	14,169

As shown by the outcome data on the previous page, numerous organizations, using YOP as a tool, are implementing projects to help at-risk youth become more productive adults. Fathers' Support Center and Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City are two organizations successfully using YOP tax credits to cultivate new donors, increase reach and capacity, and contribute in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth. The following summaries demonstrate the ways in which these agencies are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's most at-risk youth.

Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis

Who They Are – Founded in 1997 with a mission to foster healthy relationships by strengthening families and communities, Fathers' Support Center (FSC) is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families by encouraging committed and responsible parenting. The organization aims to break the cycle of poverty, eliminate child abuse and neglect, and decrease dependence on public assistance through education and the acquisition of life, parenting, and job skills. What started as a small service agency working with fathers who were disengaged from their children has evolved into a multi-faceted agency providing multiple programs, including the Family Formation Program, Parenting in Partnership, Employment and Mentoring, the Youth Leadership and Development Program, Fathers' Rap, and legal services in family law. Over the last 20 years, the organization has served approximately 14,000 men and women plus their families, including about 40,000 children.

What They Do – The focus of Fathers' Support Center's YOP project is the Youth Leadership and Development Program (YLDP). YLDP provides weekly one-on-one advising/mentoring sessions for 10 weeks, as well as individual and group instruction in college and employment readiness, financial literacy, violence and pregnancy prevention, and healthy relationships. In addition, youth participate in assessment and goal planning activities, take field trips to colleges and youth job fairs, make contact with parents or other family relations for support, and receive life skills and high-risk behavior avoidance training.



FSC's current YOP project is on track to achieve the following outcomes:

- 45 of 75 at-risk youth completing the program will demonstrate increased knowledge of employment and/or post-secondary education opportunities.

- 56 of 75 at-risk youth will complete a minimum of 10 hours mentoring, 20 hours of group bonding and skills training workshops, and demonstrate increased knowledge of goal setting and attainment.
- 38 of 75 at-risk youth will remain enrolled in a high school equivalency program or earn a high school diploma.
- 56 of 75 at-risk youth will demonstrate increased knowledge of avoidance of high-risk behaviors/activities.



Who They Serve – The YLDP program provides services to youth ages 16-21 years living in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. The vast majority of youth in FSC’s programs are growing up surrounded by crime and violence, poverty, teen parenthood, and low educational attainment. Of the young men and women participating in the program, 99% represent a minority, 93% live in a single parent or nontraditional home, 4% are homeless,

100% have a history that includes crime or court involvement, 90% are low income, and 45% live in very high crime neighborhoods. Additionally, youth often have other issues they’re coping with, such as: a history of academic failure, emotional or behavioral issues, an incarcerated parent, and/or significant family conflict.

The combination of environment, lack of resources, and histories place these youth at a higher risk for dropping out of school, using drugs, engaging in additional criminal or violent acts, unemployment, and continuing poverty. Despite the disadvantages and odds against them, the majority of youth participating in the YLDP exit the program: enrolled in or having completed high school or a high school equivalency program; with new job skills and links to employment; and able to avoid crime and high-risk behaviors.

Bryant’s Story

Bryant was enrolled in the mentoring and employment program in July 2016. Working with his Case Manager, Bryant quickly identified goals of obtaining a credential and becoming employed in the technology field. With his interests in mind, FSC staff identified the new Power Information Technology Certification Program, NPower, and its benefits as a perfect fit for

Bryant. After attending an informational session Bryant started NPower in February 2017 and remained engaged and diligent throughout the 22 weeks program. After successfully completing 15 weeks, he obtained a paid internship with the Jennings School District working with the Technology Department. Bryant's Case Manager and the Youth Career Advisor worked as a team to provide support, ensuring his needs were met and his engagement levels were maintained throughout the duration of the program. On July 21, 2017, Bryant walked proudly across the stage with NPower's first graduating class to receive his certification in Information Technology. He expressed his gratitude to God, his mother and little brothers, and to Fathers' Support Center and NPower for getting him there. His success has inspired several other youth of YLDP to enroll in NPower's next session.



Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City

Who They Are - For more than 100 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs (BGC) of Greater Kansas City has been making futures brighter for kids in the urban core through its after school and summer programs. With six locations in the Kansas City metropolitan area, the organization strives to be a leader in providing development opportunities for youth from disadvantaged circumstances. The organization envisions a future in which the Boys & Girls Club Movement is a catalyst for an age in which success is within reach of every child, and whole generations of children are inspired to a level of civic engagement not seen since the founding of our nation.



The number of children left home alone with no adult supervision has increased over the past 10 years. Every day one out of four children leaves school with no place to go. Unsupervised out-of-school hours can be very dangerous time for youth, especially those who face other challenges such as living in low income households or neighborhoods with high crime. That is why the Clubs are open before and after school, snow days and some holidays, providing a place where at-risk kids find positive guidance, build their self-esteem, and learn, play, and grow.

Who They Serve – Clubs are strategically placed in some of Kansas City's toughest neighborhoods to make them easily accessible to the young people most in need. The specific sites supported by YOP donations include the Independence and Hawthorne units, located in

neighborhoods rated by the U.S. Department of Justice at a 9 and 10 in terms of disadvantage, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 representing the most disadvantaged areas. The combined median household income in these neighborhoods is less than \$25,000, and the Hawthorne Unit serves the largest subsidized housing complex in the Greater Kansas City area.

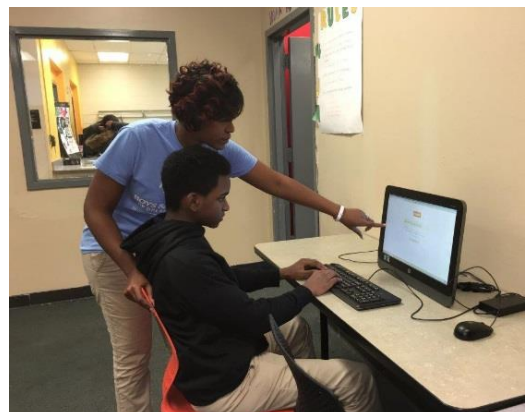
The Clubs target youth living at or near poverty and attending public schools in the metropolitan area. Historically, approximately 82% of members live in single parent homes, many without adequate resources or positive role models to provide the lessons needed to achieve healthy and productive futures. Combined with the conditions of their neighborhoods, these factors suggest the youth served are more likely to encounter barriers to success, such as delays in cognitive and behavioral development, school failure, teen pregnancy, and participation in criminal behavior.

What They Do – Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City provides an array of programs to promote development of the whole child by providing resources, support, and opportunities. Specifically, YOP donations are directed to the Clubs' Project Learn, an educational enhancement program which includes homework help, tutoring, mentoring, and summer enrichment, and SMART Moves, a nationally acclaimed program to help youth resist alcohol, tobacco, drug use, and premature sexual activity. Youth participating in these programs have been shown to: graduate with a post-secondary plan in place, increase or maintain grade level reading and math scores, and understand the dangers of drugs and alcohol and report abstinence from use.

In addition to Project Learn and SMART Moves, the organization implements outcome-driven programs focused on character and leadership development, career development and job readiness, healthy living and life skills, the arts, and sports and recreation. Daily transportation, hot meals and nutritious snacks, minimal fees, and scholarships are also provided to ensure the club is accessible to youth without resources.

A recent evaluation of youth participating in all programs showed that:

- 80% of youth took part in at least one community service activity per month.
- 91% of youth in computer classes showed increased knowledge and problem-solving skills;
- 82% showed an improved attitude toward learning.
- 90% of parents surveyed reported that the Clubs have helped keep their kids off drugs.
- 100% of members participating in Gang Prevention Program are not involved in gang activity.



With the support of YOP tax credits, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City will achieve the following outcomes:

- 580 of 600 active members will remain in school and advance to the next grade level.
- 500 of 600 active members will maintain or increase grade level in reading and math over the course of the summer.
- 550 of 600 active members will demonstrate increased knowledge surrounding the dangers of engaging in drug or alcohol use and violent behavior.

Youth of the Year – Vanesa

An example of the holistic impact of BGC's programs can be seen in Vanesa, a member of the Clubs for six years. Vanessa lives in the Hawthorne Place Apartments, the largest government subsidized housing development in the state, and attends the Hawthorne unit. Since coming to the country (and the Clubs) several years ago, Vanesa has thrived. She credits the Club with giving her the platform to develop personally and discover her interests and passions. This past summer, through the support of the Club, Vanesa served as an intern at CBIZ, a major Kansas City accounting firm.

Vanesa was the Missouri State Youth of the Year in 2016 and is on a path for great success in life. The support provided by the Missouri Department of Economic Development through the YOP program is a catalyst toward this impact and the long-term trajectory of accomplishment of Vanesa and hundreds of other young people positively affected through programs.



Organization Name	Authorized Amount
A Million Stars	\$200,000
Betty And Bobby Allison Ozarks Counseling Center	\$138,135
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$200,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of The Ozarks	\$100,000
Boys & Girls Club Of Springfield, Inc.	\$89,812
Boys & Girls Clubs Of The Columbia Area	\$200,000
Boys & Girls Club Of Poplar Bluff	\$100,000
Boys & Girls Clubs Of Greater Kansas City	\$161,250
Boys & Girls Clubs Of Southeast Missouri, Inc.	\$129,500
Boys Hope Girls Hope Of St. Louis	\$175,000
Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation	\$200,000
Chad's Coalition For Mental Health	\$80,000
Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home	\$200,000
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$200,000
Evangelical Children's Home (DBA Every Child's Hope)	\$80,000
Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis	\$77,461
Gene Slay's Girls' & Boys' Club Of St. Louis, Inc.	\$200,000
German St. Vincent Orphan Association	\$200,000
Girl Scouts Of Eastern Missouri	\$140,000
Girls Incorporated Of St. Louis	\$100,000
Girls On The Run Of St. Louis	\$100,088
Good Shepherd Children & Family Services	\$200,000
Grace Hill Settlement House	\$150,000
Herbert Hoover Boys And Girls Club Of St. Louis	\$200,000
Jazz St. Louis	\$93,626
Kids In The Middle, Inc.	\$200,000
Kingdom House	\$200,000
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Missouri	\$200,000
Mission: St. Louis	\$60,721
Our Little Haven	\$187,500
Parents As Teachers National Center, Inc.	\$200,000
Presbyterian Children's Homes And Services Of Missouri	\$200,000
St. Louis Arc	\$200,000
St. Louis Children's Hospital	\$200,000
St. Louis Internship Program	\$78,891
St. Patrick Center	\$86,639*
The Child Advocacy Center Of Northeast Missouri, Inc.	\$54,500
The Children's Home Society Of Missouri	\$200,000
Whole Kids Outreach, Inc.	\$169,940
Women In Charge	\$46,500

*Credits subsequently relinquished by organization.